

The educational tracks and integration of immigrants – reducing blind spots

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Working group of the Ministry of Education and Culture on immigration issues

- Appointed due to the rapid increase in asylum seeker numbers
- Task was to prepare and coordinate the short and long-term actions needed due to the asylum seeker situation and growing immigration
- Two reports, 99 proposed measures
- 74 of these have been implemented or are currently being implemented

Structural reforms

Basic education

Basic education, reading & writing for adult immigrants reformed

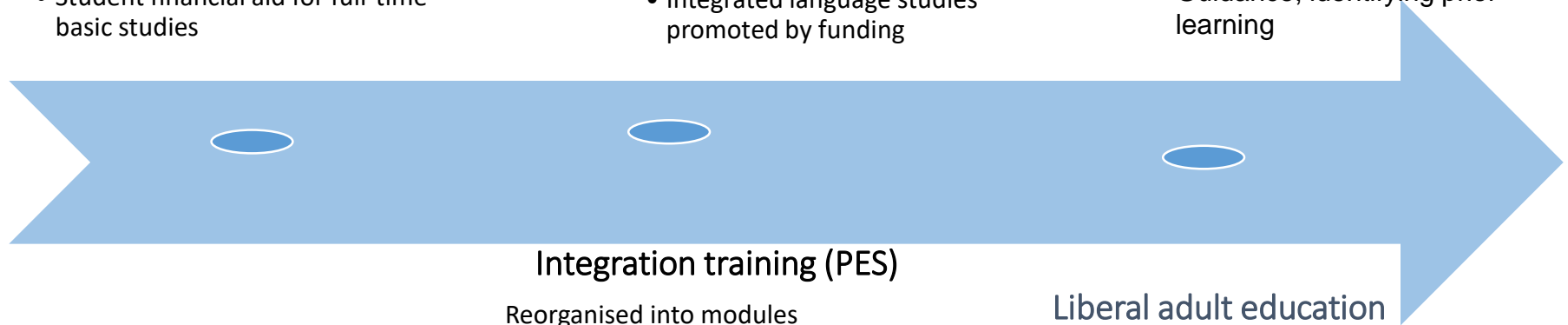
- Funding of preparatory studies for basic education and adult basic education reformed
- Unemployment benefits prolonged (tem)
- Student financial aid for full-time basic studies

VET

- Intake of students increased
- Language skill requirements made flexible
- Integrated language studies promoted by funding

Higher education

- The Supporting Immigrants in Higher Ed. in F –project started and expanded
- Guidance, identifying prior learning



Integration training (PES)

Reorganised into modules
Combined vocational-oriented content

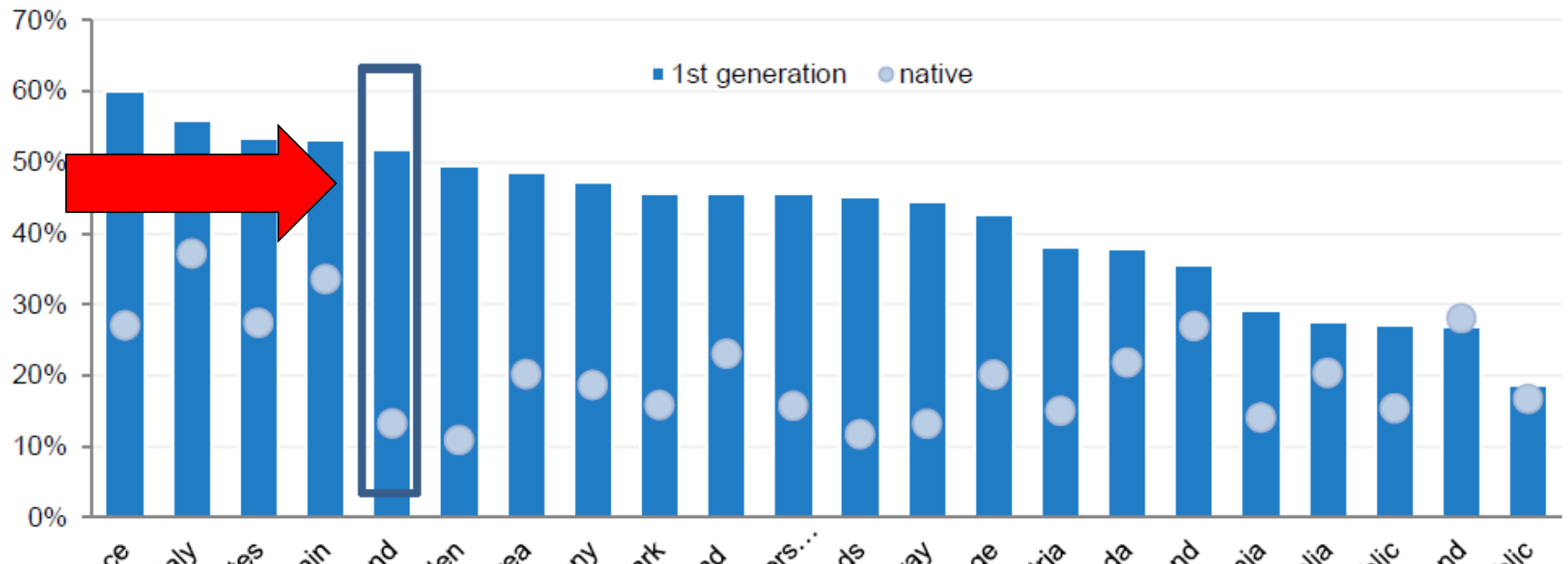
Liberal adult education

- New flexible reading & writing
- New target groups: parents who care for their children at home

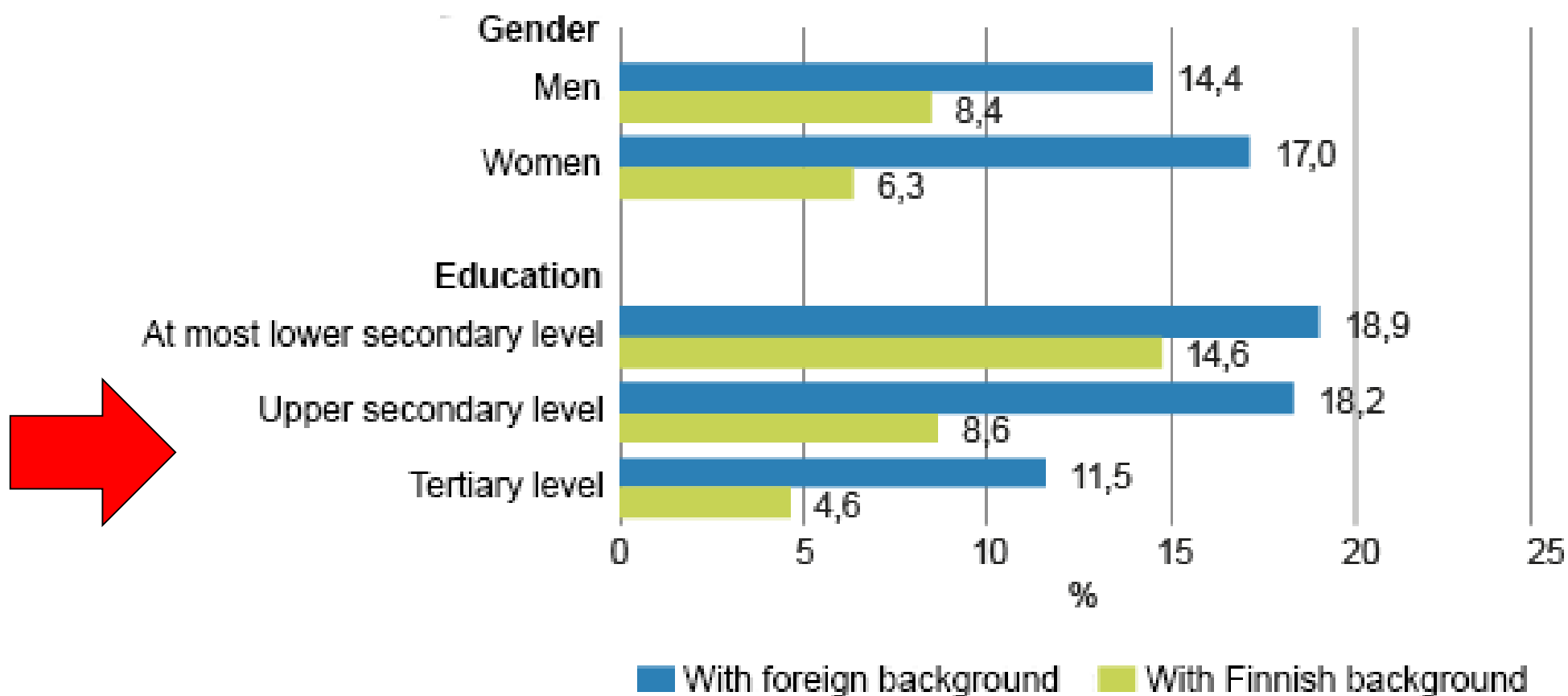
PIAAC: In Finland, half of the first-generation migrants lack foundation skills

55% of all first-generation migrants have low foundation skills, compared to 13% of the native-born; the gap is bigger in Finland than in most countries

Percentage of different groups with literacy or numeracy below Level 2



Unemployment rate of population aged 20 to 64 with foreign and Finnish background by gender and level of education in 2014, %



40% considered their lack of Finnish or Swedish skills the main obstacle to employment

SKILLS

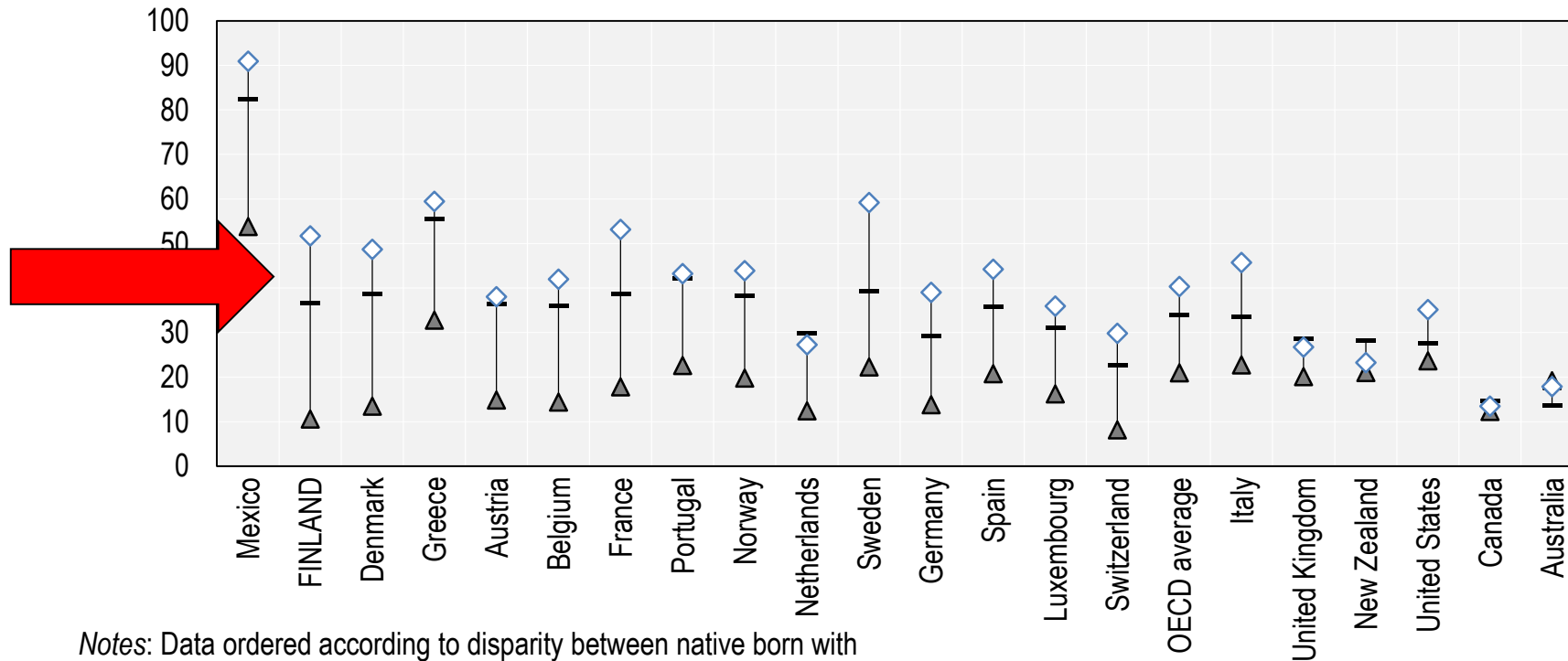
Poor performance in tests of mathematics, by country of birth and parental origin

Proportion falling below level 2 in PISA mathematics, 2015

▲ NB children of NB

— NB children of FB

◇ FB



Notes: Data ordered according to disparity between native born with native-born parents and native born with foreign born parents

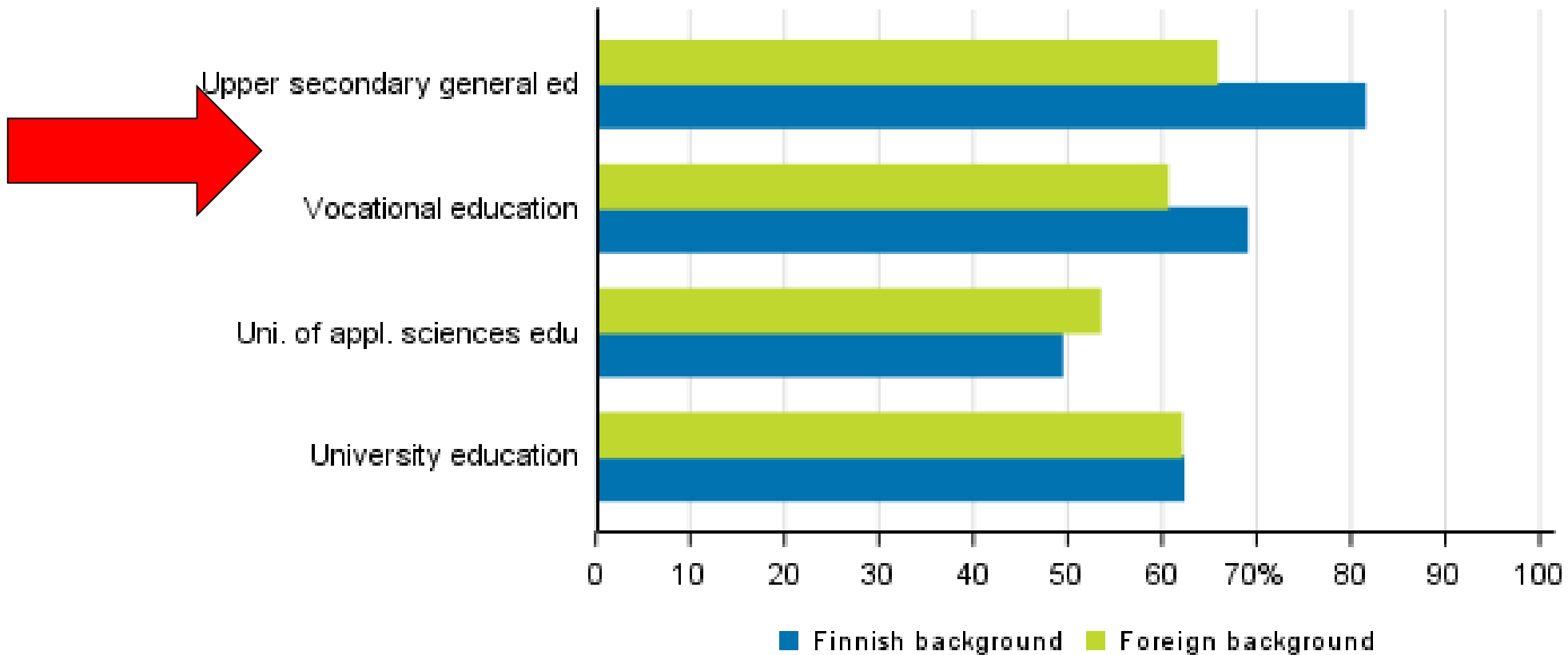
Source: OECD Programme for International Student Assessment

Source: Statistics Finland

Pass rates by sector of education and origin in 2016

Immigrant students fall short in terms of attendance in upper secondary school and higher education and ...

(Statistics Finland 2018)



New working group, dl 31.3.2019

Possible recommendations (previous, not implemented)

- Consider legal obligation to organise preparatory education for basic education
- Investigate how student welfare and other educational support procedures could be made more efficient for immigrant children and youths.
- Extend the central government transfer for the education of foreign-language speaking students also to pre-primary education and general upper secondary education

And (OECD)...

- Seek to increase participation of children of migrants in the early childhood education
- Systematically test language skills of children in pre-primary education and basic education